(d) what steps would be taken to ensure that a quarter is allotted to the eligible employee within 30 days from the date of its vacation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS & EMPLOYMENT (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of (a) above. However, sometimes quarters which are allotted are not accepted leading to an impression as if the quarters are lying vacant.

Configuration given for the Computers

1231. SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the configuration given for the computers under the Electronics Projects under MPLADS is only suggestive and not mandatory;

(b) whether MPs can suggest higher configuration like Pentiums, instead of 386 computers;

(c) whether the MPs can also suggest more number of computers but within the limit of Rs. 10 lakhs;

(d) whether the Collectors should take decision at their levels about the increased cost due to increased configurations or should they refer the matter for decision to the GOI; and

(e) what steps are being taken to make this procedure easy and simple?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Yes Sir, subject to overall ceiling of Rs. 10 lakhs per project.

(c) A Member of Parliament can suggest more computers but within the limit of Rs. 10 lakhs depending upon the number of students that are willing to be enrolled for computer education under the scheme and other relevant factors.

(d) The Collectors are competent to take decisions in this regard subject to the ceiling of Rs. 10 lakhs per project.

(e) The guidelines on the Electronic Projects are being revised.

Popularising the Use of Bio Gas

1232. SHRI RAHAS BIHARI BARIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state: (a) what steps are being taken by Government to popularise the use of Biogas;

(b) the number of bio-gas plants set up in Orissa and other States, as on date;

(c) whether Government have a proposal to assist the small and the marginal farmers to set up bio-gas plants in their respective villages; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) Steps taken to popularise the use of biogas include allocation of a target of setting up of 1.80 lakh family type and 250 community, institutional and night-soil based biogas plants to different States and Union Territories for 1996-97, with the provision to provide Central subsidy, turn-key job free, technical and training support and publicity and awareness.

(b) Over 23.68 lakh family type and 1600 community, institutional and night-soil based biogas plants have been set up so far in different States and Union Territories, including 1.20 lakh family type and 32 community, institutional and night-soil based biogas plants in the State of Orissa.

(c) and (d) Small and marginal farmers, who have requisite minimum number of cattle heads, are already being encouraged to set up family type biogas plants by providing them higher amounts of Central subsidy. Besides, village based large size biogas plants which benefit small and marginal farmers also, are being promoted wherever the community agrees to meet the balance installation cost, over and above the subsidy, as well as operation and maintenance costs.

Housing Board for Agricultural Workers

1233. DR.D. MASTHAN: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian National Rural Labour Federation has appealed to Government for setting up of a housing board exclusively for agricultural workers; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Govrnment thereto?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment (Shri Chandradeo Prasad Varma): (a) According to information available, no such request has been received.

(b) Question does not arise.

Budget Allocation for Tube-Wells in Punjab

1234. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the Budget allocation made in 1995-96 for installing tubewells in the rural areas of Punjab;

(b) the district-wise details of tubewells installed upto the end of June, 1996;

(c) the targets fixed for the puprose in the state for the next two years; and

(d) the effective measures being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA): (a) During 1995-96, an allocation of Rs. 10.06 crores was made for making provision of safe drinking water sources, viz. pipe water supply, hand pump tubewells etc. in the rural areas of Punjab under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme.

(b) District-wise details with reference to provision of safe drinking water sources made by State Government is not maintained at the Central level. The State Government has however, reported to have covered 305 village with at least one source of safe drinking water as on 31.05.1996.

(c) and (d) 684 habitations have been targetted to be covered during 1996-97. Target for 1997-98 and 1998-99 will depend upon the funds made available under the ARWSP during the respective period. With a view to complete the target fixed for 1996-97, an allocation of Rs. 11.05 crores has been made in respect of Punjab.

Conversion of CBI into an Autonomous Body

1235. SHRI JOYANTA ROY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state whether Government have any plans to make the C.B.I. an autonomousbody, free from all sorts of political and administrative hindrances, in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN): CBI derives its powers from the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946 and enjoys functional autonomy in the conduct of investigation. There is no interference with the CBI, either political or administrative, in the matter of investigation of cases by them. There are no plans under consideration of Government to make the CBI an autonomous body.

Reservation for Women in Government jobs

1236. SHRI JANARDAN YADAV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state: (a) whether Government have since accepted the proposal submitted by the National Commission for Women for 30 percent reservation for women in all Government jobs;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) whether the reservation will apply in cases where husbands/sons are employed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN): (a) to (c) The Government are considering a proposal to provide reservation for women in Government jobs.

Declaring Ahmedabad as a Mega City

1237. SHRIMATI ANANDIBEN JETHABHAI PATEL: Will the PRIME MINISTR be pleased to state:

(a) whethe it is a fact that Government have declared Madras, Mumbai, Bangalore,